REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of June 15, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to be directed to a method for sequentially outputting full lines of dither values of a dither matrix stored in a memory, which comprises steps of reading dither values commencing at an initial start position in the memory until a full line has been read, updating the initial start position to an updated start position of a subsequent line of dither values, reading dither values commencing at the updated start position until the full subsequent line has been read, and repeating these steps until all lines have been read;

dependent claim 2 is amended to conform with amended claim 1;

dependent claim 3 is amended to properly depend from claim 2; and

dependent claims 4 and 5 are each amended to specify that whether dither values at an end position in the memory have been read is determined, and if so, the updated start position is updated to the initial start position.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application, and support be found at paragraphs [3698]-[3750], in particular at [3746]-[3750], and in Fig. 237 of the present application.

Regarding Priority

It is respectfully noted that the foreign priority document is in the English language.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Sato et al. (US 5,642,439), Jamail (US 5,467,327) and Tom (US 4,683,496), because Sato specifically discloses selectively accessing the basic matrix patterns 3 to determine the tone levels of the image pixels until the tone levels of the entire image are determined based on the parent matrix pattern 1 (see col. 7, lines 14-38), not to sequentially access full lines of a dither matrix are required by amended independent claim 1, and because neither Jamail nor Tom make up for this deficiency in Sato.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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